

LIBRARY



# BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR  
1947

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., B.Sc.,  
(Medical Officer of Health)

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.  
(Chief Sanitary Inspector)





# BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR

1947

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., B.Sc.,  
(Medical Officer of Health)

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.,  
(Chief Sanitary Inspector)

# HEALTH COMMITTEE.

*Chairman*      -      -      -      -      COUNCILLOR DR. R. F. LURRING

*Vice-Chairman*      —      —      —      —      COUNCILLOR D. KITELEY

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR  
(Councillor J. E. Talbot).

THE DEPUTY MAYOR  
(Alderman J. Ferguson).

Alderman MISS E. C. ADDENBROOKE, Councillor F. BROADBENT

Councillor M. K. JENNS                                 ,,                                 A. H. DUDLEY

„ T. BRINTON „ D. SAMUEL

„ A. C. ROWLEY „ H. G. PARKER

„ G. WASE.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.

PUBLIC ANALYST :

M. M. LOVE, F.R.I.C.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR :

G. A. NORTH, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

J. B. HINTON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

## HEALTH VISITORS :

Miss E. E. MELLOR, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.R.San.I.

Miss A. W. GAFFNEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.R.San.I.



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1947 and 1946.

	1947	1946
Area of District in Acres ... ..	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1931 ... ..	28917	28917
Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate ... ..	36650	35670
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated ...	10286	10194
No. of Persons per House ... ..	3.56	3.59
Rateable Value ... ..	£195085	£190849
Sum Represented by Penny Rate ...	£771	£752
Number of Marriages ... ..	494	406
Number of Live Births ... ..	800	749
<b>Nett Birth Rate</b> ... ..	21.83	20.99
Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live Births) ... ..	20.5	19.1
Number of Illegitimate Births ... ..	53	76
Number of Deaths ... ..	453	396
<b>Nett Death Rate</b> ... ..	12.36	11.10
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	12.00	11.5
No. of Deaths under one year of age ...	44	29
Of these there were Illegitimate ... ..	5	3
<b>Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births</b> ...	55.00	37.41
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	41.00	43.00
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..	4	Nil
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	19	23
No. of Deaths from Cancer ... ..	70	69
No. of Deaths from Influenza ... ..	1	2
No. of Deaths from Measles ... ..	1	Nil
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	1	1
Rainfall in inches ... ..	23.41	31.80

Year	Births	Deaths	Births over Deaths increase
1941 ... ..	577	471	106
1942 ... ..	670	384	286
1943 ... ..	681	430	251
1944 ... ..	730	418	312
1945 ... ..	715	424	291
1946 ... ..	749	396	353
1947 ... ..	800	453	347

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

---

TOWN HALL,

KIDDERMINSTER,

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Minister of Health has indicated that the Report for 1947 should follow the same lines as last year's report, providing for the continuity of important vital statistics.

Certain features of the vital statistics detailed on the previous page are worthy of special note :—

The Death Rate (12.36), is higher than in 1946, and is similar to that of the country as a whole (12.00).

The Birth Rate (22.51) is again up, that of 1946 being 21.69. This record birth rate is above that of England and Wales (20.50). For purposes of comparison, the average birth rate for the five years before the War was 15.11. The natural increase of the population, *i.e.* the excess of births over deaths, was 347. The natural increase of the population for the five years ending 1938, was 384, that for the five year period ending December, 1947 is 1554. This figure, 1,554, is of importance in computing housing requirements of the future.

Of the total live and still births in 1947 (825) fifty three were illegitimate, a slight improvement on 1946, but still much too high.

The Infant Mortality rate has shown a sharp rise from 37.41 in 1946 to 55.00 in 1947.

This is the highest Infant Mortality rate since 1938, when it was 56.00, although in 1945 the Infant Mortality rate was 54.41.

A note on Infant Mortality is made in a later section of this report.

Of the Notifiable Diseases, Tuberculosis caused the death of 19 persons. The other notifiable Diseases caused 5 deaths.

# **VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1947.**

<b>Total Births</b> (Live and Still)	...	...	...	...	825
<b>Birth Rate</b>	...	...	...	...	22.51
<b>Birth Rate</b> (England and Wales) (Live and Still)	...	...	...	...	21.00
<b>Total Live Births</b>	...	...	...	...	800
<b>Birth Rate</b> (Live)	...	...	...	...	21.83
<b>Birth Rate</b> (England and Wales) (Live)	...	...	...	...	20.50

## **LIVE BIRTHS :**

		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	748	384	364
Illegitimate	52	22	30

<b>STILL BIRTHS :</b>		<b>Total</b> ...	...	...	25
Legitimate	24	13	11		
Illegitimate	1	1	—		

<b>Deaths</b>	453	<b>Death Rate</b>	...	12.36
Death Rate (England and Wales) 1947	...	...	...	12.00
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions				59.38
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth		from sepsis	...	1
		from other causes		Nil
<b>Maternal Mortality Rate</b> (per 1,000 Total Births)	...			1.25
<b>Maternal Mortality Rate</b> (England and Wales)	...	...		1.17

## **Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—**

Legitimate	...	39	Illegitimate	...	5	<b>Total</b>	44
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births</b>	...						55.00
„ „ „ „ (England and Wales, 1947)							41.00
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	52.14
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	96.15
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...			70
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...			1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...			1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...			4



The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1945 are as follows :—

Under 1 year	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Between 1 and 2 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Between 2 and 5 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Between 5 and 15 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Between 15 and 25 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Between 25 and 45 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Between 45 and 65 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83
65 years and upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	287
						<hr/> 453 <hr/>

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred :

Under 1 Week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
25	2	1	—	28	3	6	3	4	44

The causes of Infant deaths were as follows—

Prematurity	.....	.....	.....	10	Intestinal Obstruction	.....	1
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	4	Intussusception	.....	1
Asphyxia	.....	.....	.....	3	Congenital Heart Disease	...	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	3	Purpura Neonatorum	.....	1
Atelectasis	.....	.....	.....	3	T.B. Meningitis	.....	1
Cardiac Failure	.....	.....	.....	8	Congenital Pyloric Stenosis	.....	1
Gastro Enteritis	.....	.....	.....	2	Erythroblastosis Faetalis	.....	1
Carcinoma	.....	.....	.....	1			



### NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE AND SEX

Cause of Death.	Male	Female
1.—Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—
2.—Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	—	—
3.—Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—
4.—Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—
5.—Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
6.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	8	7
7.—Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	2
8.—Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	1	—
9.—Influenza ... ..	1	—
10.—Measles ... ..	1	—
11.—Acute polio-myelitis ... ..	—	—
12.—Acute Inf. encephalitis ... ..	1	—
13.—Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M) } uterus (F) }	2	5
14.—Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	9	6
15.—Cancer of breast ... ..	—	10
16.—Cancer of all other sites ... ..	20	18
17.—Diabetes ... ..	1	2
18.—Intra.-cran. vasc. lesions ... ..	24	31
19.—Heart Disease ... ..	48	52
20.—Other diseases of Circulatory system	25	6
21.—Bronchitis ... ..	24	11
22.—Pneumonia ... ..	5	9
23.—Other Respiratory diseases ... ..	1	2
24.—Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	—
25.—Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	—	4
26.—Appendicitis ... ..	1	—
27.—Other digestive diseases ... ..	5	5
28.—Nephritis ... ..	7	6
29.—Puerperal and post abort. sepsis ...	—	1
30.—Other maternal causes ... ..	—	—
31.—Premature birth ... ..	5	5
32.—Congenital malformations, birth injuries infant diseases ... ..	11	8
33.—Suicide ... ..	1	6
34.—Road traffic accidents ... ..	1	—
35.—Other violent causes ... ..	5	7
36.—All other causes ... ..	20	18
	232	221

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

(1). The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on the first page of this Report for convenient reference.

### (II). (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

#### 1. *Laboratory Service.*

The standing arrangements with the County Analyst have remained in force.

The Medical Practitioners of the Borough have also availed themselves of the laboratory at the General Hospital. Specimens for examination have been referred through an Honorary Physician in the Out-Patients Dept. The cost of this service was borne either through a contributory scheme or by the patient direct.

2. *Ambulance Facilities.* Since 1st April, 1947, the Ambulance Service has been provided by the Worcester County Council. Non-infectious cases and accident cases have been provided for.

#### 3. *Nursing in the Home.*

The Kidderminster Nursing Association, a voluntary organisation, has provided District Nurses as well as District Midwives in the Borough.

Also a Home and Domestic Help Scheme commenced to function in November under the supervision of the Public Health Department.

### (b) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

Name	Situation and Time of Session.	Average Attendances	Provided by
Maternity & Child Welfare Centres	(1) Prospect Lane, Thursday, 2—4 p.m. (2) Mill Street Tuesday, 2—4 p.m. (3) St. Oswald's Monday, 2—4 p.m. (4) Sutton Park Monday, 2—4 p.m. (5) Franche Clinic Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	46 40 50 56 12	Local Authority
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster Gen. Hospital Thursday, 2—4 p.m. and at 5.15 p.m.	20 per week	
Venereal	Kidderminster Gen. Hospital Males Mon. 2.15 p.m. Females Thus. 5 p.m.	26 per week	
Ante-Natal	Stanmore Nurses' Home, Chester Rd. North Friday 2—4 p.m.	12 per session	
Consultative Ante Natal Clinic	Kidderminster Gen. Hospital Weekly at 11 a.m. Wednesday		

### *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

There have been 800 live births in the Borough during the year.

With only two Health Visitors there has been some difficulty in making all the required visits to see these babies.

The work of the Health Visitors is summarised in the Table below :—

Visits to babies :	First	...	...	...	...	...	783
	Subsequent	...	...	...	...	...	2536
Visits to Children over 1 year		...	...	...	...	...	5877
Special cases		...	...	...	...	...	995
Useless Calls		...	...	...	...	...	610
Infant Life Protection Visits		...	...	...	...	...	51
Diphtheria Immunisations—completed		...	...	...	...	...	240

### *Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics.*

Prospect Lane	...	...	...	...	...	2225
St. John's, Mill Street	...	...	...	...	...	1902
St. Oswald's	...	...	...	...	...	2399
Sutton Park	...	...	...	...	...	2698
Franche	...	...	...	...	...	566
Ante Natal (37 Sessions)	...	...	...	...	...	430
Sewing Class	...	...	...	...	...	555

Health Talks have been given on :—

Advantage of Breast Feeding.

Care of Baby's Bottle Teats.

Hints for the Hot Weather.

### *Infant Mortality.*

There were 44 babies died before they reached 1 year of age.

28 babies died in the first 4 weeks of life.

16 died after the first 4 weeks, but before they were a year old.

The cause of death has already been shown on another page, but it is enlightening to group these cases.

44 Deaths :—

10 due to Prematurity.

7 due to Infections.

5 occurred in illegitimate babies.

7 cases lived in bad property.

28 died under 4 weeks old.

(e) **Hospitals.**

(1) **NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL**—For reception of infectious diseases, chiefly diphtheria and scarlet fever ; typhoid fever, complicated measles and whooping cough are also admitted.

(2) **BLAKEBROOK COUNTY HOSPITAL**—  
(Administered by Worcestershire County Council from April, 1947).

No. of beds (including Children's Beds)	...	...	194
Maternity Beds	...	...	13
Maternity Cots	...	...	13
No. of Maternity Cases in 1947 was 115.			

(3) **KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL**—(Voluntary Hospital—Normal accommodation 145 beds). There is an X-Ray Department, Massage and Sunlight Treatment and Clinics for Dentistry, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Gynaecology, Ear, Throat and Nose, Venereal Diseases and a Fracture Clinic. A Clinic for Diseases of the Skin has been added, and the activities of the Rehabilitation Centre extended.

Shortage of Nursing Staff has hampered the full use of beds during 1947.

*Greenhill Hostel.*

Greenhill Hostel has ceased to take in mothers for confinements, but accommodates up to 16 expectant or nursing unmarried mothers, and up to 25 babies.



*Municipal Maternity Home.*

The following table summarises the work of the Municipal Maternity Home :—

Number of Maternity beds ... ..	9
Number of patients admitted ... ..	238
Number of patients unable to be admitted due to beds being occupied ... ..	44
Average duration of stay of patients—12 days.	
Number of Births : Males ... ..	110
Females ... ..	123
Number of stillbirths Males ... ..	3
Females ... ..	2
Number of cases delivered by midwives ... ..	221
"      "      "      "      "      "      Doctors ... ..	17
Number of cases in which Medical aid was called for ... ..	15
Number of cases transferred to hospital ... ..	6
Number of maternal deaths ... ..	Nil
Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth - ... ..	6

*Staff.*

- 3 full time midwives.
- 1 part-time midwife.
- 1 full-time assistant nurse.
- 1 part-time enrolled assistant nurse.
- 1 Resident domestic.
- 3 non-resident domestics.

There are two significant factors which should be noted, viz. :—

- (a) 44 mothers have applied and been unable to obtain admission to the home because the wards were full.
- (b) There has been great difficulty in obtaining sufficient staff to keep the home going.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The sources of water as detailed in the Report for 1933 are still in use and constitute the main supply, with an additional supply from the Birmingham Elan Aqueduct, the minimum agreed supply to be 8,000,000 galls. per annum. To connect up the latter three miles of 9 in. main were laid to our service reservoir, with four direct connections along its route into the town distribution.

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year. Regular bacteriological examination of the raw water is made fortnightly (weekly in the hot months). Chlorination is permanently carried out, and its efficacy checked by bacteriological examination of tap samples from various points in the town. The results of examination has always shown the water to be fit for use.

As the local well-water supply is hard (average total hardness about 21) and the subsidiary Elan supply is specially treated at its source, the question of plumbo-solvency does not arise.

### TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES DURING 1947.

Samples taken from Borough Main Wells ...	...	117
Samples taken from Taps at various premises	...	64
Samples taken from Reservoir	... ..	5
Samples taken from Private Wells	... ..	3
Samples—Flood Water—Private Premises	...	2
		<hr/> 191 <hr/>

### Housing.

Number of houses built by Private Enterprise	... ..	Nil.
Number of Prefabricated Houses (temporary, etc.)	...	Nil.
Number of Permanent Houses built by Local Authority		91

There is a waiting list of about 2,500 applicants for Corporation houses. Ninety-one houses have been built in the Borough during the year 1947.

The actual increase in population, not considering immigration, was 347 in 1947. Houses condemned as unfit must still be used because there is no alternative accommodation for their inhabitants.

Very many houses in the Borough have no internal water supply.

Obviously the outstanding and very urgent need is more, many more new houses as quickly as possible.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1947.

No case of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid occurred in 1947.

### *Measles.*

616 cases were notified, 10 cases were admitted to hospital. One death was caused by measles.

Very little was done to modify attacks of measles in close contact cases. Perhaps in future, prophylactic treatment will save many contacts from developing into severe cases.

### *Whooping Cough.* 74 cases.

It is hoped that more children will be immunised against Whooping Cough in the near future.

### *Scarlet Fever.* 37 cases—no deaths.

Scarlet fever has been mild in type. 25 cases sent into hospital were admitted chiefly on account of environmental factors and not essentially because the patient required hospital treatment.

### *Acute Poliomyelitis.* 5 cases.

These cases all recovered but with some degree of residual paralysis. There was no association shown between the five cases, and no mode of spread was ascertained.

No tonsillectomies were carried out at the General Hospital while there were cases of Acute Poliomyelitis in the area.

### *Diphtheria.* 2 cases—no deaths.

Neither of these cases had been immunised.

## INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Fortnightly sessions were held throughout 1947, at Prospect Lane Clinic, and odd visits made to some of the Infant Schools. The numbers inoculated were :—under 5 years, 271 ; over 5 years, 218 ; Total 489.

Since the first large-scale inoculation was carried out in 1937, there have been only two deaths from Diphtheria, both in un-inoculated children. The following table is noteworthy :—



Table showing Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.

Year.	Total Cases.	Deaths.	Mortality rate.	Immunised Children.	
				Cases.	Deaths.
1935	74	13	17.5	—	—
1936	56	5	8.9	1	—
1937	35	1	2.8	—	—
1938	41	3	6.3	—	—
1939	6	—	—	—	—
1940	7	—	—	*2	—
1941	8	—	—	—	—
1942	9	—	—	—	—
1943	9	—	—	—	—
1944	8	—	—	—	—
1945	13	1	—	—	—
1946	11	1	9.0	—	—
1947	2	—	—	—	—
	279	24	—	3	—

\* Two "carriers," at the Public Assistance Hospital, evacuated from Birmingham after a blitz.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1947.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever	37	25	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—
Pneumonia	11	1	1
Anthrax	2	2	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	2	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	5	3	—
Malaria	2	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	74	4	1
Measles	616	10	1
Meningitis	1	1	—



**Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than  
Tuberculosis) during the year 1947.**

**DISEASES.**

Age Groups	Whooping Cough	Malaria	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Polio-Myelitis	Anthrax	Meningitis	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
Under 1 year .....	14	—	26	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1—2 years .....	8	—	77	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3 years .....	13	—	86	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4 years .....	9	—	87	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4—5 years .....	7	—	91	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—10 years .....	19	—	222	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
10—15 years .....	3	1	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15—25 years .....	—	—	8	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 years .....	1	1	6	1	1	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 years .....	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
45—65 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM**

Two cases were notified during 1947. There was complete recovery in both cases.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

There were 28 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1947 :—26 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

These figures are not large, but since Tuberculosis is in the category of Preventable diseases, they are too large.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living.
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	
1943	27	21	5	4	.70
1944	24	14	4	5	.53
1945	28	22	4	4	.75
1946	24	22	5	1	.64
1947	26	15	2	4	.52

### New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	.....	.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1 to 5 years	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	.....	.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	.....	.....	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 to 35 years	.....	.....	2	7	—	—	3	5	—	2
35 to 45 years	.....	.....	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
45 to 55 years	.....	.....	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
55 to 65 years	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	.....	.....	16	10	1	1	8	7	2	2

### DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

Sterilisation of blankets was carried out at the Blakebrook County Hospital.

Disinfestation and disinfection was undertaken by the Health Department, on account of the following :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2 cases.
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	17 cases.
Cancer	...	...	...	...	7 cases.
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	7 cases.
Bugs	...	...	...	...	51 cases.
Wood beetles	...	...	...	...	12 cases.
Flies	...	...	...	...	16 cases.

In addition, the slaughterhouse, the British Restaurant, the School Canteen, Butchers' Premises, Clinics and Maternity Home were sprayed with D.D.T. to protect against flies.

*Health Congress.*

The Medical Officer of Health attended the Health Congress, at Harrogate, in May. Many diverse and important health matters were discussed, and a summary of the most important papers was presented to the Health Committee.

*Catering Establishments and Flies.*

The Health Department has tried to eliminate flies from food shops, cafes, hotels and other places where food is handled or exposed. The use of D.D.T. has been demonstrated, and explained to the owner of such establishments.

*Food Preparation.*

There is still much carelessness and ignorance shown in the preparation and handling of food, both in the homes and in public places. It is only by education and demonstration that clean methods of food preparation and serving will come about.

**CONCLUSION.**

A brief summary of the health of the town shows :—

General health is good.

Epidemics	...	Nil.
Birth Rate	...	High.
Death Rate	...	Low.
Infant Death Rate	...	Too High.
Nutrition of babies and Children	...	Good.

What improvements can we aim at in the immediate future ?

The following is not an exhaustive list, but indicates some of the main avenues along which we can travel to produce a better chance of health for our people.

1. Improved housing.
2. Improved facilities for Maternity Work, such as—
  - (a) More Maternity Home Beds.
  - (b) A ' Flying Squad ' for emergencies.
  - (c) A specially Trained Service for rearing premature babies.
3. Improved facilities for Child Welfare, *i.e.* :—
  - (a) Day Nursery Accommodation.
  - (b) Short Term Residential Nursery Accommodation.
  - (c) Convalescent Home for many more sick children, especially after acute illness and surgical operations.
  - (d) More immunisation against infectious diseases.
4. More knowledge of and more practice in the clean handling of food.

I wish to thank the Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year, and also I wish to thank the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal and willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

COLIN STARKIE,

Medical Officer of Health.



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

---

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Seventeenth Annual Report on the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

## Meat and Food Inspection

The duties of Meat Inspection at the Regional Slaughterhouse, Lion Square, have again been rigorously pursued during the year.

Set out below is a synopsis of the work for the year 1947.

### NO. OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

	Cattle (exclud'g Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	1,678	1,261	1,247	7,873	110
Number Inspected .....	1,678	1,261	1,247	7,642	110

### NO. OF WHOLE CARCASSES (WITH ORGANS) CONDEMNED.

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
113	10	60	8



## MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1947.

## CATTLE

							T.	c. lbs.
Physiological Poorness	...	...	...	...	2077 lbs.	=		18 61
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	42895 lbs.	=	19	2 111
Cirrhosis and Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	13050 lbs.	=	5	16 58
Parasitic Cysts	...	...	...	...	1332 lbs.	=		11 100
Abscesses (Pyogenic)	...	...	...	...	2010 lbs.	=		17 106
Angiomatosis	...	...	...	...	1563 lbs.	=		13 107
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	...	205 lbs.	=		1 93
Septic Metritis and Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	928 lbs.	=		8 32
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	906 lbs.	=		8 10
Johne's Disease, Emaciation and Dropsy	...	...	...	...	16744 lbs.	=	7	9 56
Injury, Bruising and Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	2489 lbs.	=	1	2 25
Pericarditis—Septic	...	...	...	...	1440 lbs.	=		12 96
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	43 lbs.	=		43
Melanosis	...	...	...	...	55 lbs.	=		55
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	54 lbs.	=		54
Moribund—Decomposing	...	...	...	...	1490 lbs.	=	13	34
Pyaemic Polyarthrititis	...	...	...	...	97 lbs.	=		97
Immaturity	...	...	...	...	52 lbs.	=		52
Septic Conditions	...	...	...	...	707 lbs.	=	6	35
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.	=		16
Bone Taint	...	...	...	...	566 lbs.	=		5 6
<b>Total Weight Condemned</b>	...	...	...	...	<b>88719 lbs</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12 15</b>

## SHEEP

Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	1553 lbs.	=	13	97
Strongylosis	...	...	...	...	975 lbs.	=	8	79
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.	=		33
Dropsical and Emaciated	...	...	...	...	1234 lbs.	=	11	2
Parasitic Cysts	...	...	...	...	571 lbs.	=	5	11
Injuries, etc.	...	...	...	...	395 lbs.	=	3	59
Physiological Poorness	...	...	...	...	673 lbs.	=	6	1
Septic Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	204 lbs.	=	1	92
Moribund	...	...	...	...	650 lbs.	=	5	90
Mastitis	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.	=		7
Decomposition	...	...	...	...	127 lbs.	=	1	15
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.	=		18
Septic Conditions	...	...	...	...	111 lbs.	=		111
Pyaemia	...	...	...	...	137 lbs.	=	1	25
Fatty Infiltration	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.	=		16
<b>Total Weight Condemned</b>	...	...	...	...	<b>6704 lbs</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19 96</b>

## PIGS

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	130 lbs.	=	1	18
Haemorrhage and Injury	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.	=		41
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	222 lbs.	=	1	110
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.	=		8
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	234 lbs.	=	2	10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	318 lbs.	=	2	94
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.	=		18
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.	=		22
Congestion	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.	=		9
<b>Total Weight Condemned</b>	...	...	...	...	<b>1002 lbs</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>106</b>

## OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

20 lbs. Tomatoes.	112 head of Poultry.
56 lbs. Currants.	2985 tins of Various Foodstuffs.
52 lbs. Sausage.	96 lbs. Flour.
172 lbs. Bacon.	31 lbs. Dried Fruit.
2375 lbs. Fish.	174 Fish Cakes.
106 Pikelets.	10 lbs. Margarine.
111 lbs. Cheese.	26½ lbs. Peas.
123 Jars Pickles.	25 lbs. Oats.
12½ lbs. Butter.	35 lbs. Black Puddings.
6½ lbs. Macaroni.	18 lbs. Chestnuts.
19 lbs. Tea.	42 lbs. Pearl Barley.
26 lbs. Apples.	45 lbs. Gravy Salt.
12 jars Paste.	32 lbs. Pressed Chicken.
23 jars Jam.	4 tons Onions.
1641 lbs. Corned Beef.	
6 tons, 2½ cwts. Potatoes.	

## SUMMARY

**\*Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned :**

55 tons, 6 cwts., 84 lbs.

(Meat) Condemned, 43 tons, 0 cwts., 105 lbs.

(Tuberculosis) 19 tons, 4 cwts., 17 lbs.

**\*Excluding Miscellaneous Condemnations.**

## SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (5 YEARS).

1943 — 1944 — 1945 — 1946 — 1947

In January, 1940, private Slaughterhouses became redundant and a Government Scheme for the Slaughtering and distribution of Meat came into operation. The Slaughterhouse and Allocation Depot is situated at Lion Square. Under the Scheme the centralised premises in this Borough serve the following districts: Kidderminster Borough, Bewdley Borough, Stourport U.D., Kidderminster R.D., and Tenbury R.D.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.					AMOUNT OF MEAT CONDEMNED					
Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Weight of Meat and Offal Rejected			Weight Amount Affected with Tuberculosis		
					T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
1943	2,592	13,829	166	1,122	29	1	0	14	3	2
1944	2,886	12,690	145	966	27	8	1	12	16	1
1945	3,246	8,613	489	1,037	38	4	0	18	4	1
1946	4,510	12,231	189	1,433	46	7	2	21	9	2
1947	2,939	7,657	116	1,211	43	1	0	19	4	1

## REMARKS :

No food is rejected unless there is definite evidence that it is unfit for HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No food is destroyed but is disposed of to the Waste Product Merchants (contractors to the Ministry of Food) for Animal Foods or Industrial purposes.

**FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTURATION) ACT, 1928**  
**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**  
and  
**PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD)**  
**REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939**

Total Number of Samples taken during the year 1947 ... 115

Milk, 99 (94 informal, 5 formal). Gelatine Powder, 1. Ground Coffee, 3. Ice-Cream, 2. Corned Beef, 3. Gripe Water, 2. Butter, 1. Gravy Browning, 4.

Five samples of milk were reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst. All were informal samples. Four showed deficiencies of Fat and one solids-not-fat. In each case a "repeat" sample was taken. Five samples of milk were examined for abnormal odour and colour, with negative results.

**MILK (Special Designations) ORDER 1936**  
**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.**

Sample	No. Taken	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test		No. did Not Satisfy Phosphatase Test
		No. satisfied Test	No. did not satisfy Test	No. satisfied Test	No. did not satisfy Test	
<b>Designated Milks :</b>						
T.T. (Cert.) ...	7	7	...	7	...	...
T.T. ...	9	5	4	6	3	...
Accredited ...	15	13	2	14	1	...
Pasteurised ...	26	26	...	...	...	2
T.T. Past. ...	3	3	...	...	...	...
Heat Treated ...	9	9	...	...	...	...
Sterilised... ..	7	7	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

**Common Lodging Houses.**

The five registered houses in the Borough are the object of frequent attention and are visited regularly. These houses have accommodation for 105 lodgers.

Nos. 23, 24, 25, Blackwell Street were converted into business premises during the year, thus we erase from the register three houses, which, for many years had been well conducted and had given the Department very little cause for complaint.



## Bakehouses

The inspection of bakehouses has again been carried out throughout the year and resulted in the bakehouses being maintained at the same high hygienic standard as previous years.

The following occasional matters required attention :

Lime-washing of bakehouses	...	...	...	8
Dirty troughs and floors	...	...	...	6

## Offensive Trades

The appended list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades :

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	23
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	...	1
Tripe Boiler	...	...	...	...	3
Hide and Skin Trades	...	...	...	...	1

## Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

## Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922

## Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the above enactments we have registered the following :

Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	43
Wholesale Traders of Milk	...	...	...	20
Residents, Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	28
Residents, Cow-keepers	...	...	...	7

(The above figures are exclusive of small shops selling sealed bottled milk only.)

We have seven cow-keepers in the Borough who use thirteen cowsheds for the housing of approximately 90 cows. Frequent visits are made to the premises.

## Disinfestation of Premises, Clothing, etc.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, mainly combating the more common house pests, viz. : bed-bugs, fleas, cockroaches, etc.

The method chiefly used is by spraying with insecticide (containing D.D.T.) and wherever possible, such fittings as picture rails, skirting boards, architraves, and wall papers are removed, all defective plaster being made good afterwards.

Such articles as blankets, mattresses, pillows or clothing have been subjected to steam disinfection.

Many persons apply to the Department for advice on control and eradication of vermin, and incidental to this it has been the practice to supplement advice by supplying quantities of insecticide, (gratis) and sprays (on loan) to many of such persons with gratifying results in a good number of cases.



# 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	388
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	388
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	Nil

# 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	367
--	-----

# 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

## Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	21
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	21
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

## Summary of Notices Served

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects) ... ..	181
Intimation letters sent ( <i>re</i> sanitary defects) ... ..	31
Abatement notices served (for housing defects) ... ..	13
Reminder Notices served (for housing defects) ... ..	2

### Infectious Diseases

Notices to School Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	Nil
Notices to Head Teachers	...	...	...	...	56
Notices to Parents	...	...	...	...	37
Certificates granted for children to attend school	...	...	...	...	22

### PUBLIC CLEANSING (Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal)

					£	s.	d.
*The cost of collection and disposal of salvage and refuse for the year 1947 was	...	...	...	...	18900	0	0
*The income was	...	...	...	...	7651	0	0
The net cost being					11249	0	0

*\* Financial Year ended 31st March, 1948.*

### SALVAGE

The total WEIGHT of all Salvaged Materials collected and disposed of during the Twelve Months amounted to 1274 TONS of PAPER, METALS, RAGS, BONES, KITCHEN WASTE, etc., etc., the INCOME from the Materials disposed of being £7,193.

### KITCHEN WASTE

Collected and disposed of for sterilised Pig and Poultry Food  
Weight : 575 tons, 10 cwt., 2 qrs.

**LOADS OF SALVAGE**

Collected and taken to Main Salvage Depots, 1862.

**RECORD OF SALVAGE FOR THE YEAR 1947.**

Month	Weight of Salvage			Income from Sale £ s. d.
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	
January ... ..	119	14	2	623 4 4
February ... ..	98	18	1	514 8 0
March ... ..	106	10	1	618 2 1
April ... ..	128	3	3	731 15 0
May ... ..	112	15	1	716 8 9
June ... ..	106	19	3	619 0 2
July ... ..	105	17	3	611 12 8
August ... ..	97	1	2	548 0 1
September ... ..	110	16	1	617 2 10
October ... ..	116	3	1	634 4 1
November ... ..	79	14	0	478 1 7
December ... ..	91	8	3	480 18 3
TOTALS ... ..	1274	3	1	£7192 17 10

The weights of the salvaged materials have been segregated and are set out below.

Materials	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£ s. d.
Waste Paper ... ..	372	9	3	2423 13 4
Baled Tins ... ..	122	9	3	230 5 10
Heavy Scrap ... ..	18	15	2	45 13 1
Light Scrap ... ..	18	9	2	29 15 1
Textiles ... ..	43	9	3	470 19 6
Household Bones ... ..	7	9	2	42 16 8
Cullet (Broken Glass) ... ..	51	13	2	116 12 0
Non-Ferrous Metals ... ..	9	7	2	225 8 0
Rubber ... ..	1	14	0	2 11 0
Bottles and Jars ... ..	11	8	0	182 9 1
Miscellaneous ... ..	41	6	0	226 10 6
Kitchen Waste ... ..	575	10	2	3196 3 9
	1274	3	1	£7192 17 10

**COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE**

Total No. of loads of Refuse removed (all vehicles)	...	...	...	5748
Dry Ashpits emptied	...	...	...	2
Closet Pans emptied	...	...	...	4091
Privies and Middens emptied	...	...	...	3
Loads of Night Soil removed	...	...	...	51

**Disposal of Household Ashes.**

Tipped at Broadwaters	...	...	...	1590
Tipped at Puxton	...	...	...	1229
Tipped at Hoobrook	...	...	...	1798
Tipped at Worcester Road	...	...	...	1131
Total	...	...	...	5748



## Canal Boat Inspection

During the year frequent visits have been made to the Canal and Wharves, and inspections made in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936 (Part X) Canal Boats, and the Canal Boat Regulations, 1878.

The boats are not registered as dwellings in accordance with Section 250 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Canal Boat Regulations of 1878. (No new regulations have yet been issued as empowered by Section 251 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

The position would be clarified if a legal definition of a dwelling was in evidence and I trust that the expression dwelling will be defined in the new regulations.

The following figures are a synopsis of the year's work :—

Total boats on register in the Borough	...	...	4
Number of boats believed to be in use or available			4
Number of inspections	...	...	2

## RAINFALL

YEARS 1946 AND 1947.							
Monthly		Inches		RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS			
		1947	1946	Years			Inches
January	...	1.72	2.30	1938	...	...	25.71
February	...	1.66	1.80	1939	...	...	28.95
March	...	5.41	.68	1940	...	...	28.19
April	...	2.35	2.07	1941	...	...	26.44
May	...	1.75	3.05	1942	...	...	22.01
June	...	1.43	3.18	1943	...	...	23.43
July	...	2.26	1.27	1944	...	...	24.50
August	...	1.42	5.73	1945	...	...	20.45
September	...	1.05	3.82	1946	...	...	31.80
October	...	.29	.95	1947	...	...	23.41
November	...	1.41	4.67				
December	...	2.66	2.28				
Total	...	23.41	31.80	Average	...	...	25.49

## RODENT CONTROL

Most of the year's work was that of maintaining the low infestation level obtained by major treatments in 1946. Some initial treatments were executed when a contract system was inaugurated to deal with the many factory and business premises in this area. The latter system has proved successful in so much that it provides a set scale of reimbursement (based on the time and material absorbed during an initial survey and treatment) and the more exacting terms of a contract seems to set a higher standard of maintenance.

Summarily, the first complete year of fully organised Rodent Control has most certainly left its mark on the rodent population of this Borough and Rodent Control is now firmly established among the many and varied duties of a Public Health Department.

Below are some statistics which summarise briefly the work of the Rodent Operative during 1947.

### RODENT CONTROL OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR 1947.

Premises Surveyed and Treated.	Total No. Treated	Method.	Notes.
Corporation Properties, including Tips ... ..	18	Zinc Phosphide or Arsenic	These premises receive treatment every three months.
Corporation Sewers—Manholes	482	Ditto.	Treated twice in the year.
Individual Business Premises on Contract.	15	Ditto.	Including 5 of the largest factories and 6 premises for Mice.
Block Control—Consisting of an average of 50 houses and business premises per block.	59	Ditto.	Approx. 300 bodies picked up.

Total number of actual bodies picked up during the year :—1861.

Total number estimated killed during the year :—4880.

## MORTUARY.

During the year 28 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

**CONCLUSION.**

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton and the staff for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.





